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Senate
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ELLEN M. CORBETT
SENATOR
TENTH SENATE DISTRICT



CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE
NOV 02 2007
QUALITY OF AIR

STANDING COMMITTEES:
CHAIR, JUDICIARY
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS
TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING

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CHAIR, EARTHQUAKE &
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

October 31, 2007

John Muller, Chair
San Francisco Bay Regional
Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Muller and Members of the Board:

I am writing to express my support for measurable reductions in trash in our creeks and the Bay as a requirement in the Water Board's pending Municipal Regional Permit (MRP). Trash in the Bay is a serious problem that needs to be resolved. Cities and counties must do their part to protect the Bay from trash and marine debris.

Trash and plastic debris pollution is a serious water quality problem in the Bay and its creeks. The Water Board's own study found that, on average, there are three pieces of trash along every foot of stream and creek leading to the Bay. Wildlife is ingesting this trash and being entangled in it, leading to thousands of marine life deaths every year.

The MRP will ensure that Bay Area cities and counties take responsibility for preventing trash from getting into the Bay; it is an essential tool to control this problem. Please ensure that trash provisions in the upcoming MRP require measurable reductions in trash discharge, specify enforceable measures and timelines for implementation, and require cities and counties to make their trash data accessible to the public.

In addition, I encourage you to adopt funding strategies to ensure cities and counties can be successful in implementing these stricter trash control measures. Preventing trash pollution is an important priority for me. I encourage the Board to take action on this problem.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ellen Corbett".

Ellen M. Corbett
Senator, District 10

EMC: mwj